

Attorney Docket No. MSU 4.1-456  
Appl. No. 09/764,686  
Amdt. Dated: November 13, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of 10/07/2003

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 7 with the following amended paragraph:

-(c) aging the reactive silica species from step (b), preferably for no less than 5 minutes, at a temperature greater than -20°C in anhydrous form. The silica has the formula:



wherein  $1.0 \geq w \geq 0$  and  $1.5 \geq x \geq 0$  and wherein M when present is one or more metal ions. -